

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The output node stabilization circuit **135** is connected to the output node **125** to permit charging of the output node to a preselected voltage level, such as a supply voltage level or a ground voltage level. This can be desirable because the output node **125** can reside at a somewhat unknown voltage level after a write operation. The unknown voltage level can be due to any one or more of a number of undesirable dependencies that include, but are not limited to: 1) the strength of a cell previously written to; 2) the rate and number of writes performed sequentially; and 3) the leakage of the output node to other nodes of a device, such as a ground node, due to the imperfect isolation that is typical of nodes in integrated circuits. Without precharging of the output node **125**, a subsequent write operation can then have a somewhat unpredictable initial impact as the output node **125** is connected to the memory cell ~~**135**~~ **110**, resulting in an inconsistent write strength.